(a) whether it is a fact that efficiency in the working of commercial banks has declined during the period from 1996-97 to 2001-2002;

(b) if not, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the total turnover of banks during the above period year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. Public sector banks have maintained a steady growth in their aggregate deposits, advances and profits during the period 1996-97 to 2001-2002.

(c) The total turnover (deposits and advances) of the public sector banks during the years 1996-97 to 2001-2002, year-wise, is given below:—

| Year | Turnover (Rs. in cr.) |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 66,9598 |
| 1997-98 | 79,1370 |
| 1998-99 | 93,4210 |
| 1999-2000 | 113,9422 |
| 2000-2001 | 127,4005 |
| 2001-2002 | 144,9430 |

**Allocation of Oilfields**

†*396. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the total area having oil reserves in the country so that they be alloted for oil production under the new petroleum policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total reserves of oil and gas available in the said oil sectors; and

(c) the number of oilfields allotted to private and public sectors for production so far and their oil production capacity per day?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Oil and gas occur in sedimentary areas

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

only. Out of the total 3.14 million square kilometres (sq. km.) of sedimentary basin area in the country, including deep water upto the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), about 1.06 million sq. km. has been awarded for exploration and development. Remaining area of 2.08 million sq. km. is available for offer in the future New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds.

The prognosticated hydrocarbon resources in the Indian sedimentary basins are about 28 billion tonnes of Oil+Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG). In the hydrocarbon cycle, such prognosticated resources are converted into reserves after completion of exploration and appraisal. Abut 7.2 billion tonnes of O+OEG have been established as Initial Inplace Reserves till 1.4.2002 in the Indian sedimentary basins.

(c) Under the policy for award of discovered fields to private parties for development and production of oil and gas, Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) have been signed for 27 discovered fields. Average daily production from these fields is about 11,200 metric tonnes of crude oil and 13.7 million standard cubic metres of natural gas. In addition, under the first and second rounds of NELP, 47 PSCs have been signed, and 23 exploration blocks have been awarded under the third round; these 70 blocks cover an area of around 0.715 million sq. km.

**Expert Committee on pricing of Gas**

*397. SHRI ARJUN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up an expert committee to review the pricing of gas supplied to the consumers by Mahanagar Gas Limited;

(b) if so, whether the Committee was to give its recommendations by the end of November, 2002;

(c) if so, what are the details of the report;

(d) whether Government have considered the report; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement it?